

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8566

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

:USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0576

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1956

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PE, PR, GV, SG, IV, LI, SHUM

SUBJECT: MINI SUMMIT - WEST AFRICAN STATES,

REF: MONROVIA 1655, 1241 AND PREVIOUS

1. HEADS OF STATE OF THE IVORY COAST, THE GAMBIA, GUINEA, LIBERIA, SENEGAL AND TOGO MET IN MONROVIA ON MARCH 18 AND CONCLUDED THEIR MEETING TODAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 19, IN AN EUPHORIC DISPLAY OF UNITY SELDOM SEEN.

2. THE COMMUNIQUE RECOGNIZED "THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA AND THE IVORY COAST ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA AND OF SENEGAL ON THE OTHER, A SITUATION DESCRIBED AS PREJUDICIAL TO THE INTEREST OF THE THREE A SITUATION DESCRIBED AS PREJUDICIAL TO THE INTEREST
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OF THE THREE STATES . . . AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION IN THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGION, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ECOWAS."

3. THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING:

A) TO FINALLY END, AS FROM TODAY, ALL DISSENSIONS WHICH HAVE

AFFECTED THEIR RELATIONS;

B) TO REESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS;

C) TO WORK EFFECTIVELY FOR THE STRENGTHENING AND WIDENING OF THEIR RELATIONS IN ALL AREAS OF BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, IN THE MAIN INTEREST OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND OF AFRICA.

C) TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND GOODS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING ECOWAS OF WHICH THE THREE STATES ARE MEMBERS.

4. FOLLOWING THE READING OF THE COMMUNIQUE IN THE PARLORS OF THE EXECUTIVE MANSION BEFORE A LARGE GATHERING OF DIPLOMATS, GOL LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRY DELEGATIONS, THE PRESIDENTS MOVED FORWARD AT THE URGING OF THE ASSEMBLED PHOTOGRAPHERS AND MALMOST AS IF ON SIGNAL, BEGAN TO WARMLY EMBRACE AND KISS ONE ANOTHER IN A MANNER WHICH TOOK SPECTATORS BY SURPRISE. HOUFHOUE-BOIGNY STOOD BETWEEN SENGHOR AND TOURE, RAISING THEIR HANDS IN A SIMULATED VICTORY SIGNAL GESTURE AND THEN THE THREE OTHER PRESIDENTS, EYADEMA, JAWARA AND TOLBERT, JOINED IN AN EMOTIONAL JAMBOREE THAT LASTED PERHAPS 10 TO 15 MINUTES.

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5. WHILE MUCH REMAINS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, IT IS CLEAR THAT EVEN THE DOUR AND SOMEWHAT RETICENT SENGHOR WAS CAUGHT UP IN WHAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT DESCRIBED AS "A MEETING OF MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE WHICH CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED" IN ITS IMPACT ON OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

6. CONTINUING, PRESIDENT TOLBERT SAID IN HIS CLOSING REMARKS WHICH WAS THE ONLY PUBLIC SPEECH DURING THE MEETING, "I AM CONVINCED THAT IF LEFT TO OURSELVES, WE IN AFRICA HAVE A MATURITY, WISDOM AND ABILITY AND DETERMINATION TO FIND JUST AND LASTING SOLUTIONS TO ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS; AND WE CAN DO SO IN THE AFRICAN TRADITION AND WAY . . ."

"SO LET THOSE WHO ARE OUR FRIENDS PROVE THEIR SINCERITY BY THEIR ACTIONS, SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE US TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN OUR UNITY. THOSE WHO BY ANY MEANS, SUBTLE OR BLATANT, TRY TO DIVIDE US, CANNOT BE CONSIDERED OUR TRUE FRIENDS."

7. HOUFHOUE-BOIGNY, SEKOU TOURE, SENGHOR, EYADEMA AND THEIR DELEGATIONS LEFT ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT APPROXIMATELY 1315 HOURS. PRESIDENT JAWARA WILL DEPART FOR BANJUL ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 20. ONLY NOTE OF CAUTION FOLLOWING THE

ENTHUSIASM OF THE MEETING WAS SOUNDED BY SENGHOR IN A PRIVATE ASIDE TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR. SENGHOR SAID WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMUNIQUE ITEM ON RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS THAT IVORY COAST AND GUINEA ON THE ONE HAND, AND SENEGAL AND GUINEA ON THE OTHER, WOULD SIGN PRIVATE PROTOCOLS UNDERSCORING THE NEED FOR ABSOLUTE CONFORMITY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS TOLD THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THAT SENGHOR HAD OPENED THE MEETING BY STATING CATEGORICALLY THAT THE ISSUE OF EXILES (AND HE CLAIMS THERE ARE 6000,000 GUINEANS IN SENEGAL) IS NOT A MATTER FOR DISCUSSION. TOURE IMMEDIATELY COUNTERED BY STATING AT THIS MEETING WAS NOT ONE TO REVIEW
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THE MISTAKES OF PAST, THAT HE WAS ISSUING REPEATED CALLS FOR RETURN WITH SAFETY TO GUINEANS OUTSIDE THEIR BORDERS BUT THAT HE WAS LEVYING NO SPECIFIC REQUEST ON SENEGAL OR IVORY COAST. (FYI - IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE RETURN OF EXILES WAS THE OBSTACLE WHEN HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND TOURE MET IN GUINEA SEVERAL YEARS AGO.)

9. EMBASSY WILL DO SEPTTEL ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MEETING AND WILL POUCH FULL TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE AND TOLBERT REMARKS TO AFW.
CARTER

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